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Date: December 22, 2009 Signature: [Signature]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/977,991 Confirmation No. 4493
Applicant : Bassam Hashem, et al
Filed : October 17, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2617
Examiner : Nam Trung Huynh

Docket No. : 77682-62
Customer No. : 07380

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 18, 2009, Applicant submits the following:

Remarks/Arguments beginning on page 2 of this paper.